

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A stapler comprising:

a strike out passage, that a staple is supplied thereto, for guiding the staple to sheets to be bound, wherein the staple is formed with a pair of staple legs formed to fold to bend in right angle from both ends of a crown portion;

a driver plate for striking out the staple supplied into the strike out passage to the sheets;

a clincher mechanism arranged to be opposed to the driver plate for folding to bend the staple leg penetrated through the sheets along a rear face of the sheets; and

a guide member with substantially parallel lateral sides for supporting a side of a base portion of the staple leg from an inner side of the staple during a process that the staple leg of the staple is penetrating the sheets.

Claim 2 (Original): The stapler according to Claim 1, wherein the guide member includes a guide piece disposed in the strike out passage and an inclined face continuously formed to the guide piece; and

wherein the guide member is moved in a direction of escaping from the strike out passage by bringing the inclined face into contact with the crown portion of the staple.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A cartridge containing a number of staples to be mounted in a stapler,

wherein the stapler comprises a driver plate for striking out the staple supplied into the strike out passage to the sheets, and a clincher mechanism arranged to be opposed to the driver plate for folding to bend the staple leg penetrated through the sheets along a rear face of the sheets,

wherein the cartridge includes a strike out passage, supplied with the staple formed with a pair of staple legs formed to fold and bend in a right angle from both ends of a crown portion for guiding the staple to sheets to be bound, arranged at a front end face of the cartridge, and a guide member,

wherein the guide member with substantially parallel lateral sides for supporting a side of a base portion of the staple leg from an inner side of the staple during a process that the staple leg is penetrating the sheets.

Claim 4 (Original): The cartridge according to Claim 3, wherein the guide member is integrally molded to be single-piece with the cartridge.

Claim 5 (Original): The cartridge according to Claim 3, wherein the guide member includes a guide piece disposed in the strike out passage and an inclined face continuously formed to the guide piece; and

wherein the guide member is moved in a direction of escaping from the strike out passage by bringing the inclined face into contact with the crown portion of the staple.